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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/009,052	12/06/2001	Monica Bokstrom	B&LAB-009	4387

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EXAMINER

ALVO, MARC S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1731

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/009,052	BOKSTROM	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Steve Alvo	1731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 December 2004.
 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17-23 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) ☒ Claim(s) 22 is/are allowed.
 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17-21 and 23 is/are rejected.
 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claims 17-21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The term "that does not form a gas sealing plug" has not been disclosed. Claim 23 contains new matter as there is not disclosure of using "a fan". Two fans (44) and (48) are always used. The disclosed regulation unit always uses two fans (44, 48) not a single fan, e.g. "a fan".

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0 492 040 in view of WO 96/05365.

EP 0 492 040 teaches dewatering device (Figure 2, 15) for dewatering the pulp to a consistency of 25 to 40% (Figure 2, (15) and pulp line to shredder), shredding device including a closed pulp shredding vessel (17), transporting conduit and a reaction vessel (23') for bleaching the shredded pulp with ozone (19). EP 0 492 040 further teaches that leakage of ozone into the atmosphere can cause a safety problem and teaches sealing the reactor from the atmosphere (column 5, lines 40-48) and regulates the pressure to prevent leakage. WO 96/05365 teaches "gas-sealingly conveying" (page 2, lines 6-7) high consistency (page 2, lines 22-23) shredded pulp through a conveyor from the shredder having a pulp inlet and outlet (page 2, lines 7-12) to

the reaction vessel. During operation the pulp is conveyed through conveyor 16', which carries screw 24 and shaft 22' is provided with breaker arms 40. The screw and breaker arms would keep the pulp passing through the conduit non-compressed as they break up the pulp (page 4, line 25-page 5, line 4). WO 96/05365 teaches that in gas phase bleaching of pulp, downstream of the conveyor would be a vessel having a gaseous reagent which may be toxic or otherwise objectionable and teaches that it is important that the gas does not leak through the conveyor into the atmosphere (page 3, lines 14-22). WO 96/05365 further teaches gas sealing the conduit by using a pressure sensor (36) and differential controller (38) to maintain an upstream pressure greater than the downstream pressure to prevent leakage backwards through the conduit. It would have been obvious to the artisan to prevent the ozone gas of EP 0 492 040 from leaking backwards through the pulp in the conduit leading back to the shredder using the pressure-sensor and pressure-regulating device of WO 96/05365 as both WO 96/05365 and EP 0 492 040 teach the dangers of leaking ozone into the atmosphere or the breaker arms of EP 0 492 040 (Figures 6 and 7). Claim 19; see breaker arms (40) of WO 96/05365 or the breaker arms of EP 0 492 040 (Figures 6 and 7). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art when using the gas sealing means of WO 96/05365, a gas sealing pulp plug would not be needed, as the gas would be prevented from leaking through the outlet pipe by means of gas pressure.

Claim 23 has not been rejected over the art but has been rejected under 35 USC 112, paragraph 1.

Claim 22 is allowed over the art.

The term "gas-tightly" in claim 22 is being interpreted as meaning that the connection between the outlet pipe to the reaction vessel is tight enough to prevent the passage of any gas, e.g. similar to air-tight.

Applicant's arguments with respect to not needing a pulp plug have been considered, but are not convincing as it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art when using the gas sealing means of WO 96/05365, that a gas sealing pulp plug would not be needed. The artisan would recognize as a pulp plug would not be needed as gas would be prevented from leaking through the outlet pipe by means of the gas pressure of WO 96/05365.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

~~Applicants' arguments are moot due to the new art rejection. The shredder of EP 0 492 040 does not shred the pulp in the presence of ozone.~~


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steve Alvo whose telephone number is 571-272-1185. The examiner can normally be reached on 5:45 AM - 2:15 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571-272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Steve Alvo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1731

msa